
Socialist Party of Washington

State Constitution

[as amended July 1903]

Published in *The Socialist* [Seattle], whole no. 162 (September 13, 1903), pg. 2.

Article I — Name.

Section 1. The name of this party shall be The Socialist Party of Washington, and it shall be affiliated with the Socialist Party of America.

Article II — State Committee.

Section 1. There shall be a State Committee, composed of 9 members, at least 3 of whom shall be residents of the place selected for state headquarters, elected at the annual state convention for the term of one year. Said 3 members shall act as a Local Quorum, transacting all business of the State Committee, subject to referendum of said committee, on call of any one member.

Section 2. The State Committee shall elect a chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, Organizer, and other officers or assistants necessary to carry on the work, but the Secretary and Organizer shall not be members of the State Committee, but employed by them.

Section 3. The State Committee shall represent the party of this state in its relations to the national organization; organize, grant or revoke charters to Locals; call state conventions; receive reports from Locals; arrange circuits for speakers; sell and distribute Socialist literature; file tickets nominated at state conventions; and carry on a general propaganda work in the state. It shall report semi-monthly to the National Committee and publish monthly a financial report, together with the proceedings of its meetings. The State Committee shall neither publish nor designate any official organ. Vacancies in the State Committee shall be filled by a general vote of the members in the state upon nominations made by the Locals.

Section 4. The National Committeeman shall be elected for the term of one year.

Article III — Locals.

Section 1. A Local shall consist of 5 or more persons believing in the principles of revolutionary Socialism, and holding a charter from the State Committee. The Officers of a Local shall consist of an Organizer, Secretary and Treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary. They shall be elected the first week in January and July, for the term of 6 months. Officers elected at any other time shall serve only for the unexpired term. Local Secretaries shall keep the State Secretary fully informed as to the names and addresses of Local officers, and shall report to the State Committee the general condition of the Local on the 15th of each month on blanks provided for that purpose.

Section 2. Dues.— Locals shall pay to the State Committee each month, on or before the 15th, a sum equal to 10 cents for each member in good standing, such money to be raised as the Local sees fit. By good standing it is meant that a Local shall not be in arrears over 30 days.

Section 3. Any member not in good standing shall take no part in the official proceedings of the party.

Article IV — Headquarters.

Section 1. The location of state headquarters shall be decided by the annual convention.

Article V — Limitation of Members, Etc.

Section 1. No member shall accept or retain any

officer or position, elective or appointive, at the hands of any other than the Socialist Party; except such as may be secured through competitive civil service examinations.

Section 2. Any member advocating fusion with any party or faction not representing revolutionary Socialism shall, upon sufficient evidence being presented to the entire State Committee, be expelled by a majority vote of said body.

The appeal from this decision must be for a referendum vote, to secure which a member must receive an endorsement of the Local of which he is a member, or two members of the State Committee.

Section 3. No person shall become a member of this party who does not sever all connection whatsoever with the capitalistic parties.

Section 4. Pledge of Members. — All members shall subscribe to the following pledge:

"I, the undersigned, recognizing the class struggle between the capitalist class and the working class, and the necessity of the working class constituting themselves into a political party, distinct from and opposed to all parties formed by the propertied classes, hereby declare that I have severed my relations with all other parties; and I endorse the platform and constitution of the Socialist Party, and hereby apply for admission to membership in said party."

Section 5. Any member accepting nomination for any office, shall be required to sign and deposit his blank resignation, with the state, county, or district party organization from which he receives his nomination, said resignation to become effective immediately upon its presentation.

Section 6. No member of the Socialist Party shall be nominated for any political office, unless said person has been a member of the party for at least one year, provided that said restrictions shall not apply to Locals less than a year old.

Section 7. No member shall be eligible to hold two or more offices within the gift of the Socialist party at one and the same time.

Section 8. All applicants for membership in this party shall be put on probation for 3 months.

Article VI — County Organizations.

Section 1. Any county containing at least 4 Locals may proceed to organize a county organization by

the election of a County Committee, to be composed of one committeeman from each Local, County Organizer, and such other officers as may be necessary.

Section 2. Locals in organized counties shall pay their dues to their county treasurer, who shall pay the same to the state treasurer.

Article VII — Basis of Representation.

Section 1. This representation (for delegates to state convention) shall be based on the average number of members in the Local in good standing for a period of at least 3 months prior to the date of said convention.

Article VIII — Amendments and Initiative and Referendum.

Section 1. Any question involving a change in this constitution, a question of party tactics, the official act of any state, county, or municipal official of the Socialist Party or his removal from office, the calling of special state conventions, or any other party matter shall be submitted to a party vote if called for by 5 Locals or by 2 members of the State Committee.

Section 2. All questions calling for a referendum vote shall be submitted by the State Committee without comment.

Section 3. All acts of State Convention shall be properly arranged paragraph by paragraph by the State Secretary and submitted within 10 days from adjournment of said convention to a referendum vote of the entire party membership, who shall vote "No" or "Yes" on each paragraph of said acts.

Resolutions.

On Salaries.

Resolved, That salary of regular organizers and speakers engaged by State Committee be limited to 3 dollars a day and 2 dollars a day expenses.

On Class Struggle.

Resolved, That we reaffirm the principles embodied in our National Platform, especially that party

which says:

"The workers can most effectively act as a class in their struggle against the powers of capitalism, by constituting themselves into a political party, distinct from and opposed to all parties formed by the propertied classes.

On Speakers' Appointments.

Resolved, That we condemn any comrade of our party who makes or keeps any appointment to speak under auspices disapproved by the Local in that vicinity.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing Corvallis, OR, 2010. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.